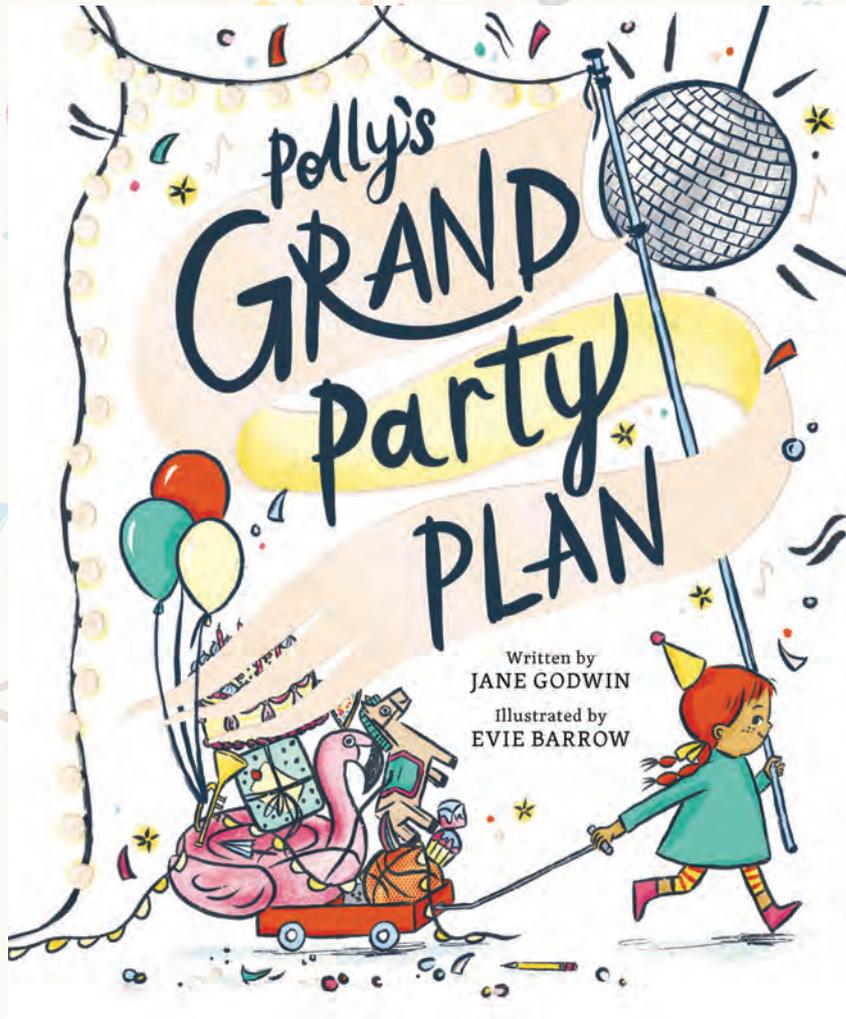


Classroom Resources



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Suitable for
Ages 3-7

Themes

Compromise and acceptance
Having goals and dreams
Ways we celebrate

Contents of this pack

- Overview of *Polly's Grand Party Plan*
- Key themes
- Questions to ask before we begin reading
- While we are reading: discussion in key curriculum areas
- Final reflections
- Two activities

Description

*Polly's sixth birthday would be here any day
(Well actually thirty-five sleeps away)
She was counting down till the thirteenth of May
There'd be a party! Yippee! Hooray!*

Polly was making a plan ...

For dreamers everywhere comes a relatable picture book about throwing the perfect birthday party ... even when things don't exactly go to plan.

About the author

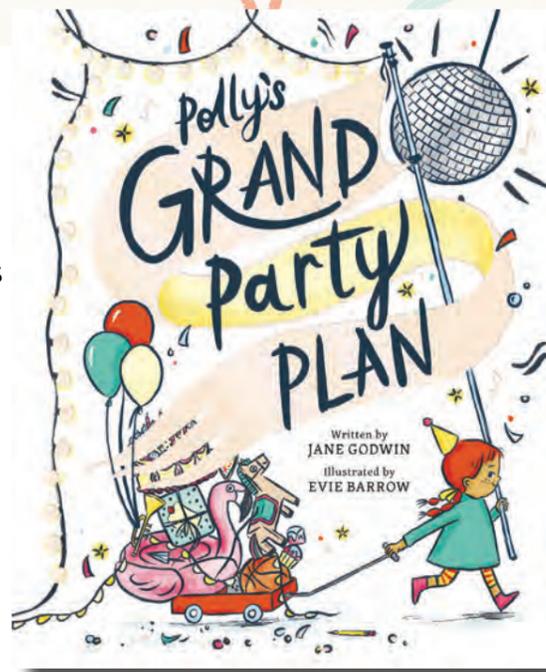
Jane Godwin is the highly acclaimed author of over 20 books for young people across all styles and ages. Her work is published internationally and she has received many commendations. Jane is dedicated to pursuing quality and enriching reading and writing experiences for young people, whether it's as a writer, a publisher or a speaker/facilitator in schools. She lives in Melbourne.

About the illustrator

Evie Barrow is an Australian artist and illustrator living in Melbourne. In 2019 her first illustrated picture book was published: *Horatio Squeak*, written by Karen Foxlee. Along with children's book work, her illustrations have featured in magazines *frankie*, *Broadsheet* and *Flow*, and in the book *Shout Out to the Girls*.

Find this book at our website:

<https://affirmpress.com.au/publishing/pollys-grand-party-plan/>



Key themes

Compromise and acceptance

Polly originally envisioned a *very* grand party with lots of games, food, friends and fun. While she might not get the party that she planned, she learns to accept the party that she's given and to her surprise, it turns out to be her best party yet! This book is a fantastic resource for discussing compromise and acceptance for when our plans change.

Having goals and dreams

Polly sets out to host a fabulous party for her sixth birthday, and we spend much of the book seeing Polly's dreams and plans for her perfect party. This book is a great tool to remind us of how wonderful it is to have a dream or a goal. It also shows how we might start planning to achieve them, even if they feel too wild to come true!

Ways we celebrate

Polly plays games and shares food with her friends to celebrate her birthday. These are common ways of celebrating a birthday. Polly's family also has a very specific tradition: she is allowed to invite a specific number of guests (her age plus one)! This book can be used to discuss the many ways that we celebrate a special event, and the different traditions that families might have when they're celebrating birthdays.

Questions to ask before we begin reading

- This book is called *Polly's Grand Party Plan*. What do you think this book will be about?
- Examine the front cover for clues. What sorts of things do you think that Polly has planned for her birthday?
- What do you think is the difference between a party and a *grand* party?
- What sorts of things happen at a birthday party?
- Do you like going to birthday parties? Why/why not?
- Do you have a favourite party game? How about a favourite party food?
- What are some other things that we might throw a party for?
- How old will you be turning on your next birthday?



Questions to ask while we are reading

Curriculum areas:

Comprehension

Social and Emotional Development

- Look at the first page. How is Polly feeling about her upcoming birthday? What clues tell you how she is feeling?
- Polly debates whether a weekend party or an after-school party would be better. Which one do you think would be better and why?
- Write a list of all the foods that Polly wants to have at her party. Then, flip to Polly's actual party. What foods can you spot? Were any of these foods that Polly had planned?
- Do the same exercise with the games and activities.
- What does Polly dream of having at the gate when guests arrive at her party? Does this end up happening at Polly's actual party? Is it different to how Polly had imagined?
- Describe Polly's cake. Does *everybody* like cake? Have you ever been to a party where they have served something else instead of cake?
- What flavour is the ice-cream served at Polly's party?
- What is the game that the adults are playing at Polly's party?
- What did Polly's friend Mae bring her that was 'the best surprise ever'?
- What was not part of Polly's plan at the party but which 'blew her away'?
- Polly's friends have to go home at the end of the party. Who stays and continues the celebration with Polly?
- Does Polly have any siblings? If so, is Polly an older sister or a little sister?
- What sorts of pet does Polly's family have? What is it doing during the party?
- Do you think Polly is going to go to sleep at the end of the book, or is she up to something else?
- At a party, your family and friends often bring presents for you. Does Polly receive any presents?
- What is the most important part of a party for you? Is it the presents? The games? The food? Or is it being with your family and friends? Be ready to explain your answer to your classmates!

Curriculum

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

- Polly has her birthday on the 13th of May. Do you know what season May falls in? Have a

look at the illustrations and try to guess, based on what the characters are wearing. Where might Polly live if it's warm and sunny in May?

- Polly mentions lots of different musical instruments that could play at her party. Can you describe how to play each of these musical instruments?

Bagpipes

Trumpet

Drum

Tambourine

Cymbal

Guitar

- What are some of the birthday traditions in your house? Make a class list!
- Do you think that birthdays are celebrated the same way all over the world? As a class you can discuss how birthday traditions might be the same or different in various countries.

Curriculum area:

Literacy

Vocabulary

Make a list of these words, which may be unfamiliar to young readers, and find out what they mean:

Obstacle course

Petit four

Jaffle

Fete

Predicted

Tambourine

Consulted

Schemed

Absolute

Rhyme

Look at the first page of the story, where we first meet Polly. Can you identify any rhyming words? As a class activity, break the class into groups and ask the students to work together on different pages in the book, identifying rhyming words and/or the rhyming pattern of the book once they have grasped this concept.

Visual Literacy

Polly's story is in two parts: first she plans and imagines what her party will be like, and then she experiences her birthday party.

Look at the illustrations. What is different about them when Polly is imagining her party compared to when she is in the real world, experiencing her party? Why might they be different?

Rhetorical Questions

Rhetorical questions are questions that you ask when you do not expect an answer.

Polly asks a lot of rhetorical questions throughout the book. Why do you think she is asking so many questions? How might she be recording her thoughts in response to the questions?

Curriculum area:
Numeracy

- At the beginning of the book, how many sleeps does Polly have to go until her party?
- Polly and her dad compromise about the number of people Polly can invite to her party. How many people does Polly want to invite? How many is she allowed to have in the end?
- How many party guests wear party hats? Does anyone take their hat off during the party?
- At the end of the book, Polly has to wait a whole year for her birthday to come again! How many days are in a year?
- When is your birthday? Can you write it out numerically? (Day, month, year)

Final reflections

- What was your favourite part of this book? Why?
- Was there anything that Polly forgot to include in her party planning, but which you'd have planned for your birthday party?
- Do you think Polly had a wonderful birthday party, even if it wasn't the party she originally planned? Why do you think this?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why/why not?



Activity One: Plan a grand party

Plan your next birthday party!

Things to think about:

- Who will you invite?
- Where will you have the party?
- Will the party have a theme?
- How will you decorate?
- What games or activities will you have?
- What food will you serve?

Extension activity: you could ask the students to ...

- Practice their **design skills** and make their invitations or draw a particular part of their plan, such as the food they want to serve or a game they want to play.
- Develop their **oratory skills** by describing their party plans in a speech.

Activity Two: Traditions

Traditions are important in every family. Different families have different traditions!

What are some of the traditions you have in your family? This might be ...

- Where and how you spend your birthday each year.
- Important cultural celebrations.
- Other events, like
 - Visiting a relative every summer
 - Having a movie night every Saturday
 - Supporting a particular AFL team and watching all of their games.
- Discuss why traditions are important for us.
- Compare traditions and discuss and what types of traditions were new or surprising to the class.

Extension activity: you could ask the students to create a new tradition!

What is the name of the tradition and what does it celebrate? Students can explain and justify their choices for their new tradition and the rules around it. Will they ask their parent or guardian if this new tradition can be observed?